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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 02421 110150 Z

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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R 110024 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5364

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: ETRD, AORG, MX
SUBJ: GOM REQUEST THAT MEXICO CITY IS DESIGNATED SITE
OF WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

REF: STATE 51591

SUMMARY: MEXICO MAKES RENEWED EFFORT FOR U. S. SUPPORT FOR MEXICO CITY AS SITE OF HEADQUARTERS OF WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT' S COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO MEXICO' S DEMARCHE.

1. FOLLOWING DELIVERY OF EMBASSY NOTE BASED ON PARA 1 REFTEL, DIRECTOR IN CHIEF OF FOREIGN SECRETARIAT CASTRO Y CASTRO ASKED POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO CALL ON HIM APRIL 10 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF MEXICO' S DESIRE TO BE SITE OF WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERS. CASTRO Y CASTRO SAID THAT THERE WILL BE MEETING OF LATIN AMRICAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OFFICIAL TOURIST ORGANIZATIONS IN EL SALVADOR MAY 7-11 TO SELECT THE CANDIDATE OF THE AMERICAS FOR THIS SITE. HE SAID THAT THE U. S. WAS ALREADY INVITED TO THIS MEETING, AS WAS CANADA, AND THAT THE SUBJECT OF AGREEMENT ON A SINGLE CANDIDATE FOR HEADQUARTERS SITE WAS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA. CASTRO Y CASTRO SAID HE HOPED U. S. WOULD ATTEND AND WOULD NOT TRY TO REMOVE THIS ITEM FROM THE AGENDA BY SOME PARLIAMENTARY MANEUVER. HE WENT ON THAT MEXICO ALREADY HAD THE SUPPORT OF COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA,
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ECUADOR, PANAMA, SAN SALVADOR AND NICARAGUA FOR MEXICO CITY AS THE SITE FOR THE WTO. MEXICO' S CANDIDACY HAD EXISTED SINCE SEPTEMBER 1970 AND THE U. S. AND CANADA HAD NOT YET PUT FORWARD ANY SITE.

2. CASTRO Y CASTRO SAID THE ONLY OTHER LATIN AMERICAN SITE SUGGESTED WAS FROM CAMPOS OF ARGENTINA WHO HAD URGED HIS GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT BUENOS AIRES, WITH AS YET NO DECISION BY GOA.

3. CASTRO Y CASTRO SAID YUGOSLAVIA AND TURKEY WERE ALREADY LOBBYING FOR A SITE IN THEIR COUNTRIES AND THAT SPAIN AND GENEVA WERE ALSO CANDIDATES.

4. CASTRO Y CASTRO ESTIMATED THAT 34 OUT OF THE NECESSARY 51 COUNTRIES HAD RATIFIED THE WTO, AND HE UNDERSTOOD THE U. S. WAS CONSULTING WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CONCERNING THEIR RATIFICATIONS. HE THEREFORE BELIEVED THAT CREATION OF THIS ORGANIZATION COULD COME ABOUT IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE.

5. CASTRO Y CASTRO NOTED THAT A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OFFICIAL TOURIST ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE HELD IN WARSAW MAY 12-17 AND THAT AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THIS ORGANIZATION WOULD BE HELD IN VENEZUELA IN NOVEMBER. MEXICO HOPED THAT THE CANDIDATE OF THE AMERICAS COULD BE PRESENTED AT THESE MEETINGS ON A UNITED BASIS BY MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. CASTRO Y CASTRO SAID MEXICO HAD ALREADY RECEIVED PROMISE OF SUPPORT FROM THE PHILIPPINES AND WAS HOPEFUL THAT INDIA AND MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD ALSO SUPPORT MEXICO CITY AS THE SITE.

6. CASTRO Y CASTRO CLOSED BY SAYING MEXICO HAD HEARD " RUMORS" THAT THE U. S. HAD PROMISED SUPPORT TO YUGOSLAVIA. HOWEVER, YOUGOSLAV WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL UNITED NATIONS LANGUAGE, WHICH IS A REQUIREMENT FOR THE SITE OF WTO, AND ZAGREB DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE THE FACILITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS NECESSARY FOR SUCH AN IMPORTANT ORGANIZATION. MEXICO FELT THAT IT COULD BE A LINK BETWEEN ASIA, AFRICA AND EUROPE, WHICH WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ANY OTHER SITE. AS FOR LOCATING HEAD-
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QUARTERS IN A U. S. CITY, HE NOTED INCREASING CRITICISM OVER U. S. PREDOMINANCE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FELT THAT A SITE NEAR THE U. S. WOULD BE PREFERABLE.

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MEXICO THEREFORE VERY MUCH HOPED THAT U. S. WOULD SUPPORT MEXICO CITY.

7. POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAID HE WOULD REPORT THIS DEMARCHE TO WASHINGTON.

8. COMMENT: GOM IS GOING TO UNUSUAL LENGTHS IN TRYING TO SECURE HEADQUARTERS OF WTO. CASTRO Y CASTRO, WHO IS AN IMPORTANT, TRUSTED AND DYNAMIC OFFICIAL, WILL APPARENTLY BE SPENDING MAJORITY OF HIS TIME ON THIS PROJECT OVER REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR. DEPARTMENT' S COMMENTS ON HIS DEMARCHE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. MCBRIDE

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